

CLAIMS

1. A method of distance learning comprising the steps of: installation on at least one education center server of a software for database management, data transfer and communication amongst the education system users; student registration in the scope of which they receive at least one electronic data carrier containing an education material for the subject studied in a given format; establishing at least one interactive on-line session between a lecturer and the students, during which session the lecturer presents an educational material on the students' interface, in particular by means of activating the material contained in the students' electronic data carrier, asks the students questions and/or transfers tests and/or exercises to solve, wherein the students' interface is comprised of windows and tools, including those of remote communication, such as electronic mail, voice mail, chat and forum; and finishing the on-line session when the set time has elapsed; characterized in that it comprises the steps of:

a) dividing the education program into several education levels (10, 11, 12, 13, 14), of which each one including at least one module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n), corresponding in its contents to a subject of a traditional education;

b) providing each student (1), within the registration (20), with at least one electronic data carrier including a workshop material (32) and a multi-media electronic textbook (33) for independent study, and with an access password (35) to the educational platform (3);

c) establishing at least one interactive on-line session of electronic workshops (21) for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) within each education level (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) in a predetermined time after the registration (20) of the students (1), at least one interactive session being established through the educational platform (3) containing a web site, and at least one interactive session including a presentation to the students (1) by the lecturer (4) of the workshop material (32), submitting to them questions and exercises to resolve, checking and discussing by the lecturer (4) of the exercises' solutions and a group discussion among students, with use of remote communication means;

d) activating electronic consultations (22) between the students (1) and the lecturers (4), following the termination of each interactive session of the electronic workshops (22), with use of remote communication means;

e) providing each student (1), following the termination of a predetermined session, preferably the first session of the electronic workshops (21), with a subject of a test work (23) for individual preparation and submission of a test work report to the university at a predetermined time; and

f) conducting a final examination (25, 25a) for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n).

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that each education level (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) includes at least several modules (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n).

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) are organized several, preferably between 5 and 10, interactive sessions of the electronic workshops (21), of which each has a duration between 1 and 5 hours; preferably between 2 and 3 hours.

4. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the workshop material (32), being activated during the interactive electronic workshops (21), consists of a series of following sequences: presentation of problems, description, explanation, illustration, actual example from an economic reality, indication of application possibilities, checking of the students' understanding of the material and finally a recommendation for individual application.

5. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises the step of dividing each session of the electronic workshops (21) into several independent parts (A1, B1, B2, B3, B4) with the same or different duration, wherein in the part (A1) a presentation to the students (1) of the workshop material (32), a discussion of the issues by the lecturer (4), as well as students' replies to the lecturer's questions take place; in the part (B1) – transmitting by the lecturer (4) of exercises for individual resolution and their resolving by the students; in the part (B2) – checking of the exercise solutions by the lecturer (4) and a discussion between the students by means of remote communication means; in the part (B3) – summing-up of the issues and exercise solutions by the lecturer (4); and in the part (B4) – a discussion between the students (1) by means of remote communication.

6. A method according to claim 5, characterized in that it further comprises the step of directing the students (1), who do not manage to login to the educational platform (3) before the start of the electronic workshops (21), first into a "waiting room" and then automatically including them into the participation in the electronic workshops (21), preferably prior the commencement of a next part the workshops.

7. A method according to claim 6, characterized in that the "waiting room" for delayed students (1) is created by parallel, shifted in time running of several similar electronic workshops (21).

8. A method according to claim 7, characterized in that several first parts (A1) of electronic workshops (21) are run shifted in time.

9. A method according to claim 5, characterized in that during the presentation of successive issues by the lecturer (4), the students (1) are provided with a list for saving Internet addresses relating to the issue discussed, to which new addresses are then attached to the list relating to consecutive issues.

10. A method according to claim 1 or 5, characterized in that for a discussion are utilized remote communication means in the form of at least one tool selected from a group consisting of: electronic mail, voice mail, discussion group, chat and forum.

11. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the electronic consultations (22) are conducted by means of the educational platform (3), with use of the e-mail and a discussion group that comprises the students (1) of a given module, and with a participation of an operator/consultant and/or the university's lecturers (4).

12. A method according to claim 11, characterized in that upon receipt of a question by an operator/consultant within the electronic consultations (22) a check is first made in a knowledge database and if it does contain an answer to the question asked, the operator/consultant transmits it to the student, while in the case of a lack of such an answer, the question is directed to a lecturer running a given module, which transmits the answer to the operator/consultant and the latter to the student.

13. A method according to claim 12, characterized in that the answer to a question asked is added to the knowledge database.

14. A method according to claim 12, characterized in that a lecturer is the operator/consultant of the electronic consultations (22).

15. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises the step of activating interactive archived electronic workshops, the archived workshops being activated after the termination of the electronic workshops (21), but prior to returning the test work report, preferably solely to the scope of the first part (A1) of the electronic workshops (21).

16. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that after return of the control work, the lecturer sends to the students in a determined time, advantageously by electronic mail, results of the control together with a commentary.

17. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises a step of activating interactive electronic reviews (24), the reviews being activated prior to the final examination (25, 25a) for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) with a participation of the lecturer (4), the reviews (24) comprise, among other things, a repetition of the material covered within the electronic workshops (21) and a group discussion, with use of remote communication means.

18. A method according to claim 17, characterized in that the electronic reviews (24) are conducted similarly to the electronic workshops (21).

19. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises the step of creating, prior to commencing the examination (25, 25a), a dynamic examination list which is blocked in a predetermined time before the start of the examination (25, 25a).

20. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the examination (25) is conducted by a traditional way.

21. A method according to the claim 1, characterized in that the examination (25a) is conducted by an electronic means.

22. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that all the information, terms and possibly duration of individual components of the educational process, i.e. the interactive electronic workshops (21), the archived workshops, the test works (23), the electronic reviews (24) and the examination (25, 25a), as well as control work subjects and results, and the examination grading, preferably together with general remarks and descriptions, are included in the web site of the

educational platform (3), which is accessible through the use of the access password (35) and the student's identification number.

23. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises the step of creating a dynamic electronic library in the web site of the educational platform (3), the library being accessible through the use of the access password (35) and the student's (1) identification number.

24. A method according to the claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises the step of checking, prior to the commencement of an electronic workshop session, of a computer's equipment and software, necessary for the communication with the educational platform (3) and being in the possession of the students (1), the checking being made by means of test software included in the educational platform's web site.

25. A method according to claim 24, characterized in that in the case of finding by the test software of a deficiency of necessary software, an automatic installation of such software through the educational platform's web site follows.

26. A method according to the claim 1, characterized in that the workshop material (32) and the multi-media electronic textbook (33) provided to the students are included in a single CD-ROM disk.

27. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that within the registration (20), the students (1) are provided for each module (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) with a syllabus (31) contained in an electronic data carrier, preferably in the CD-ROM disk including the workshop material (32) and the multi-media textbook (33).

28. A method according to claim 27, characterized in that in the CD-ROM disk, including the syllabus (31), the workshop material (32) and the multi-media electronic textbook (33), is also placed a starter package (34), including a particular didactic guide and a technical instruction as well as a software necessary to open the formats of the files contained in the workshop material (32) and the electronic textbook (33).

29. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that during the interactive electronic workshops (21) and the electronic reviews (24) for the students (1) is displayed an interface (40), including at least two, preferably three main windows: an information window (41), an action window (42) and a dialogue window (43), respectively, and tool bars (44 and 45).

30. A method according to claim 29, characterized in that in the information window (41) is presented all complementary information relating to the material discussed, that in the action window (42) is presented an educational material concerning the issues discussed by the lecturer (4), and that in the dialogue window (43) are displayed in particular the syllabus (31), an index of key notions, definitions and formulas, a calculator, the electronic textbook (33) as well as the chat and the e-mail.

31. A method according to claim 30, characterized in that in the action window (42) are presented videos, 3-D animations, 2-D illustrations, layouts, diagrams, texts, calculations and other dynamic information.

32. A method according to claim 31, characterized in that in the videos in the action window (42) is included at least one presentation selected from the group consisting of: video with a lecturer or other individual discussing an issue, recorded earlier or taken by a camera in real-time, video with an example illustrating an issue, interviews, documentary films as well as video showing utilization of computer programs, in particular of calculation sheets and databases.

33. A method according to claim 29, characterized in that the tool bars (44 and 45) comprise communication buttons (48), including those for the chat, the e-mail and the forum, and recall buttons (49), including recalls to the electronic textbook (33), to the glossary of terms, the syllabus (31), the Internet addresses and to the calculator.

34. A method according to claim 33, characterized in that in various phases of the electronic workshops (21) individual communication and recall buttons are enabled or disabled.